

African Violet

MAGAZINE



The Genetics of Dominant and Recessive Blossom Traits P.27

The Effect of Different Water Treatments on Rooting P.36

Vote in the AVSA Hat Contest P.46

AVSA Information

FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY

For accurate service, send your inquiries to the correct person.
Always include your name and address.

■ AVSA Business

- **AVSA Office Address:** AVSA, P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720
- **Office Manager:** Amy Carruth (844) 400-AVSA (2872); (409) 839-4725; Fax (409) 839-4329.
Email: avsa@earthlink.net.
- Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. CT.
- **Official Correspondence:** AVSA Secretary, P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720. *Email:* secretary@avsa.org.

■ Membership and Affiliates

- **New or Renewal Membership:** Membership application available on page 55 of this issue or at www.africanviolet.societyofamerica.org/participate/membership. Send check payable to AVSA in U.S. dollars from a U.S. bank; VISA or Mastercard for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office; or pay online.
- **Change of Address:** Send new address to AVSA Office at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address.
- **Membership Cards:** Sent to Associate Members. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of *AVM*.
- **Membership Committee:** Send ideas, offers to help and requests for assistance to Stephen Covolo-Hudson.
Email: membership@avsa.org.
- **Affiliate Committee:** For information on how to organize a chapter, write Mary Thompson. *Email:* affiliate@avsa.org.

■ Shows and Judges

- **Shows and Judges Committee:** Mary Corondan.
Email: judges@avsa.org.
- **Show Schedule Approval:** For information on Shows, AVSA Awards and approving schedules, email Susan Anderson at showschedule@avsa.org and attach a copy of your show schedule.
- **Order AVSA Rosettes:** SSA Packet with no rosettes \$5. Orders for rosettes must be specific as to which is needed — standard, species, mini-semi; they can be mixed color and size, all same price. All rosettes are \$12.00 each, added to price of SSA packet.
- **Judging School:** To register a judging school, send request to Ruth Loomis. *Email:* ruthloomis@msn.com. A registration fee of \$15 is required and should be sent to the AVSA Office.
- **Judges' Duplicate Cards:** Send self-addressed, stamped envelope to Mary Corondan, 434 Plumwood Way, Fairview, TX 75069. *Email:* judges@avsa.org.

■ AVSA Fundraising

- **Fundraising:** Randy G. Deutsch, Chair.
Email: fundraising@avsa.org.
- **Funds:** Booster Donations, Boyce Edens Research Fund, Barbara Burde Endowment Fund, Anne & Frank Tinari Endowment Fund.
- **Payment:** Contribute through the website or mail to AVSA Office; please designate fund.

■ African Violet Magazine

- **AVM Editor:** Sophia Bennett, P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720. *Email:* editor@avsa.org.
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- **Coming Events:** Send to Editor or fill out event form on www.africanviolet.societyofamerica.org by publication deadline.
- **Advertising Rates and Information:** Richard Craft, Chair. *Email:* advertising@avsa.org. Send advertising to Chair by publication deadline.
- **Back Issues:** Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from AVSA Office. Send SASE for list or download from the AVSA Store.

■ International Registrar

- **Plant Registration:** Dr. Jeff Smith.
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- **Master Varieties List (AMVL) & Supplements:** Download from AVSA website or order from AVSA office for \$2. Orders in writing only. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Joe Bruns.
- **Research:** Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified, potential research personnel to Dr. Jeff Smith.
Email: research@avsa.org.
- **AVSA Scholarship Program:** Dr. Charles Ramser.
Email: scholarship@avsa.org.

■ AVSA Convention

- **Convention:** Kathy Lahti, Convention Chair.
Email: convention@avsa.org.
- **2024 Convention:** April 21-28, DoubleTree Phoenix Tempe Hotel, Phoenix, Arizona.
- **Future Dates:** If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Chair.
- **Convention Programs:** Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Convention Chair.
- **Convention Awards:** Send suggestions to Terri Post.
Email: awards@avsa.org. Send contributions to AVSA Office.
- **Commercial Activities, Sales and Exhibits:** For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Kathy Bell. *Email:* commercials@avsa.org.

Join, renew and learn more at www.africanviolet.societyofamerica.org

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African Violet MAGAZINE

Volume 77 Number 2

ON THE COVER:
Eternal Orbit
Hybridized by: P. Sorano/
Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses
Grown by: Wayne Geeslin
Semiminiature

Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky



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African Violet Society of America

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.



President's Message

By Mary Corondan

Email: president@avsa.org

The AVSA National Convention in Phoenix is about a month away. I am excited about seeing my violet friends from around the world, being in Arizona for the first time, learning more about growing violets and seeing a breathtaking show. Many members I have spoken with are combining the convention with a vacation. It is the perfect time of year to enjoy the glorious weather along with all Arizona has to offer. Join us for this fantastic and fun event!

The best way to get involved with the convention is to volunteer. Help is needed collecting tickets prior to events, at the registration desk, at the AVSA sales table or as a judge or clerk at the show. Check out the many volunteer opportunities on the 2024 Convention page of the AVSA website. You will meet new friends and discover that the more involved you are, the more you enjoy the convention.

Convention registration is now available at www.africanvioletocietyofamerica.org. The TechWeb Committee is dedicated to providing a user-friendly registration experience. Some of you may notice that prices have increased. When hotel and banquet prices increase, AVSA must follow suit. As you support the convention, you also support AVSA.

Thank you very much for your generous giving to the annual Booster campaign. We raised over \$1,800. AVSA is a 501(c)3 organization and your giving makes it possible

to broaden AVSA's mission to promote violets, provide violet education and have a well-run association for the membership.

As you are preparing for your local show, you will want to take advantage of a special sale on AVSA culture brochures that you can distribute to the public. The price is only \$10 for 100 brochures. When this printing is depleted, the price will go up to \$23 per 100 copies. Take advantage of this opportunity.

Visit the Coming Events on page 12 in this issue and set your schedule to attend spring shows in your area. You can find recently added events on the AVSA website. It is such a thrilling experience to see violets in all their spring splendor, looking vibrant and full of colorful blossoms. Be sure to buy some new plants to keep that violet spark alive and take a friend or two along with you. One of the best violet bonuses is to share new varieties with others. Violet friends are the best!

Pat Hancock recently passed away. Mel Grice has a tribute to this inspirational lady, who was a good friend to many of us, on page 50. Her contributions to the violet world through hybridizing were exceptional, and she was an excellent teacher. She will be greatly missed, but the legacy of her hybrids lives on.

Be an inspiration to others as you grow, show, share and learn about African violets.



Editor's Notes

By Sophia Bennett

Email: editor@avsa.org

There's so much happening with AVSA right now that it can be hard to keep track. Here's a quick refresher. Clubs all over the country are hosting shows and sales in the coming months, so flip to page 12 to find the one closest to you. The AVSA National Convention is less than two months away, so the time to plan your trip is now. Our convention coverage begins on page 40. The Senior Judges exam is coming up (details on the next page) and there will be a judging school at the convention.

AVSA's Marketing Committee is now accepting votes in the Hat Contest. Check out all of the amazing entries on pages 46 and 47, then visit www.africanvioletsofamerica.org to select your favorite before March 31. More Virtual Circle educational events are in the works; if you'd like to learn about the last one or get details on how to suggest a topic or speaker, check out page 17.

Does your club have something new and exciting going on? I'm loving these stories about how clubs are celebrating their anniversaries. The latest is a piece by Luanne Arico, which details how she traced the history of the Garden State African Violet Club of New Jersey back 75 years. One of the main resources she utilized was the Biodiversity Heritage Library's AVSA magazine database, which is available on the AVSA website and has digital copies of nearly every *African Violet Magazine* ever printed. The database is searchable, making it an incredible resource for all kinds of research.

The Biodiversity
Heritage Library's
AVSA magazine
database is available
on the AVSA website
and has digital copies
of nearly every AVM
ever printed.

I hope you're enjoying Graham Goode's articles on hybridizing as much as I am. His latest contribution, which reviews dominant and recessive traits and how they affect bloom color, is once again packed with helpful information for hybridizers (page 27). For those who are more interested in reproducing existing African violet cultivars from leaves, Dr. Jeff Smith has an interesting article on page 36. He collaborated with a group of high school students to see how well roots grew on leaves submerged in three different types of water. Some of the results might surprise you.

Keep those articles coming! I love hearing from you. I hope to see you at one of the many events coming up soon.

Senior Judges: Important Notice

By Barbara Werness

Email: SeniorJudges@avsa.org

Senior Judges may apply for a renewal examination between May 1 and September 1, 2024. The examination request form can be obtained on the AVSA website in the Shows and Judges section under Member Content. Instructions for paying the \$5 fee are included on the form. Per the *AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges*, 2022 edition, page 82, proof of three blue ribbons should be sent with the form. (Proof of three blue ribbons is waived for the 2024 examination.)

You may receive the examination by email as a Microsoft Word document. If not received, follow up within two weeks. If you require a hard copy by postal mail, allow up to three weeks for delivery. Please specify email or hard copy when you submit the registration form. Note that the 2022 edition of the Handbook will be used for the 2024 Senior Judges examination.

A printed hard copy (not email) of the exam must be returned by October 1, 2024 for grading. Send examinations to:

Barbara Werness
12354 Naples St. NE
Blaine, MN 55449

Advanced Judges who meet the requirements and wish to apply for their first Senior Judge examination can use the same request form. Also required are the following items of documentation of eligibility per the AVSA Handbook, page 84. Send documentation via postal mail to Barbara Werness.

The 2022 edition
of the Handbook
will be used for
the 2024 Senior
Judges examination.

1. List of all judging schools attended, grades, etc.
2. Signed schedules of five AVSA shows judged (copy of signed title page with all show information is sufficient).
3. Verification of three blue ribbons earned per AVSA Handbook, 2022 edition, page 82. (Proof of three blue ribbons is waived and only three signed schedules are required for the 2024 examination.)

Apply by September 1, 2024. Applications postmarked after September 1, 2024 will be returned and application may be made next year.

Include your email address to be notified of receipt of your exam. Exams will be returned after October 15, 2024.

Please refer any questions regarding the Senior Judge examination to Barbara Werness.

Tally Time 2023

By Susan Anderson

Email: tallytime@avsa.org

The 2023 Tally Time annual report is a summary of the African violet varieties and species receiving the greatest number of awards in AVSA Standard Shows throughout the past year. This year's report summarizes results of 42 shows across six geographic regions. A total of 292 different African violet varieties (26 species and 266 hybrids) were recorded in Tally Time this year. Congratulations to the winners!

Thanks to all participating affiliates for submitting reports. Please remember to save time and postage by submitting show results through the show entries program or directly online at www.africanviolet.societyofamerica.org/affiliate-show-awards-report-1. To have winners included in the annual summary, please submit the Tally Time report by November 20. Enjoy growing and showing!

	Total Number of Awards	Number Best In Show	Number Second Best	Variety Hybridizer, Registration No.	Number of Collection Awards	Best Standard, Semi, Mini, Trailer or Species
STANDARDS	21	4	2	Buckeye Nostalgia P. Hancock #10484	10	5
	15	2	1	Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler P. Hancock #8745	8	4
	13	3	0	Hunter's Kashmir K. Muzalewski #11227	6	4
	6	2	0	Annabelle K. Stork #8636	2	2
	6	1	0	Carolina Elegant Affair L. Abplanalp #10913	4	1
	5	1	0	Jersey Snow Flakes R. Kurzynski #9820	3	1
SEMIMINIATURES	7	1	0	Eternal Orbit P. Sorano/ Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses #10224	3	3
	7	1	0	Ness' Crinkle Blue D. Ness #8136	5	1
	5	1	0	Ness' Satin Rose D. Ness #8144	3	1
	5	0	0	Jazz Bouquet R. Kurzynski #9443	4	1
	5	0	0	Thunder Surprise S. Sanders #9024	4	1
	13	0	0	Jolly Orchid H. Pittman #9719	10	3
MINIATURES	8	2	0	Windsome H. Pittman #10116	3	3
	6	0	0	Precious Red H. Pittman #9724	4	2
	4	0	0	Optimara Little Moonstone Holtkamp #7352	3	1
	4	0	0	Orchard's Bumble Magnet R. Wilson #8479	3	1

	Total Number of Awards	Number Best In Show	Number Second Best	Variety Hybridizer, Registration No.	Number of Collection Awards	Best Standard, Semi, Mini, Trailer or Species
TRAILERS	7	0	2	Rob's Boolaroo R. Robinson #8053	0	5
	5	1	1	Brazos Belle L. Ray #5232	0	3
	4	0	1	Milky Way Trail J. Stahl #7169	0	3
	4	0	0	Rob's Vanilla Trail R. Robinson #9296	1	3
SPECIES	16	1	0	S. 5c1 clone <i>ionanthus</i>	9	6
	15	0	0	S. 5b clone <i>grotei</i> Silvert	9	6
	11	0	0	S. 5h clone <i>rupicolus</i>	8	3
	5	0	0	S. 5b clone <i>confusa</i> Mather E	3	2

The following table lists the award winners by geographic region.

		Total Number of Awards	Geographic Regions					
Variety			I	II	III	IV	V	VI
STANDARDS	Buckeye Nostalgia	21	-	2	9	3	7	-
	Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler	15	2	4	3	5	1	-
	Hunter's Kashmir	13	-	2	2	4	3	2
	Annabelle	6	-	3	3	-	-	-
	Carolina Elegant Affair	6	1	2	3	-	-	-
	Jersey Snow Flakes	5	-	-	5	-	-	-
SEMIS	Eternal Orbit	7	-	-	1	2	4	-
	Ness' Crinkle Blue	7	-	-	6	-	-	1
	Ness' Satin Rose	5	-	4	1	-	-	-
	Jazz Bouquet	5	-	-	-	3	2	-
	Thunder Surprise	5	-	1	4	-	-	-
MINTRS	Jolly Orchid	13	2	5	3	1	-	2
	Windsome	8	1	4	-	2	1	-
	Precious Red	6	1	1	2	2	-	-
	Optimara Little Moonstone	4	-	3	-	1	-	-
	Orchard's Bumble Magnet	4	1	-	1	-	2	-
TRLs	Rob's Boolaroo	7	-	1	3	1	-	2
	Brazos Belle	5	4	1	-	-	-	-
	Milky Way Trail	4	-	2	2	-	-	-
	Rob's Vanilla Trail	4	-	1	-	1	1	1
SPECIES	S. 5c1 clone <i>ionanthus</i>	16	-	2	7	5	-	2
	S. 5b clone <i>grotei</i> Silvert	15	2	4	2	5	2	-
	S. 5h clone <i>rupicolus</i>	11	1	-	1	6	1	2
	S. 5b clone <i>confusa</i> Mather E	5	-	1	3	1	-	-
	Number of Winners	197	15	43	61	42	24	12
Number of Shows Reported		42	6	11	11	7	4	3

*TRLs = Trailers, *SEMIS = SEMIMINIATURES

Geographic Region, State/Province (Number of Shows):

- Region I:** Arizona (2), California (2), New Mexico (1), Nevada (1)
- Region II:** Minnesota (2), Missouri (4), Nebraska (1), Ohio (2), Wisconsin (2)
- Region III:** Connecticut (1), New Jersey (2), New York (4), Pennsylvania (2), Virginia (2)
- Region IV:** Arkansas (1), Louisiana (1), Texas (5)
- Region V:** Alabama (1), Florida (1), Georgia (2)
- Region VI:** Alberta (1), Ontario (2)

Award-Winning Designs from the 2023 AVSA Convention

By Sophia Bennett

Email: editor@avsa.org

Designs are always a highlight at the AVSA National Convention show. Here are eight standout examples to inspire you as you

prepare for this year's convention. All photos by Winston J. Goretsky.



Best Design in Show “Golden Years”

Exhibited by: Elmer Godeny

2nd Best Design in Show “Awakening”

Exhibited by: Candace Baldwin





“Best in Show”

Exhibited by: Becky McMeel

“Diamond Anniversary”

Exhibited by: Becky McMeel





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Coming Events

Check the AVSA Events page (www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org/events), search the local club on Facebook or contact the organizers listed below for the latest information on these events.

■ March 1-3 — California

Central California African Violet Society
“Violets Read Arabian Nights” Plant Sale
Fresno Fairgrounds
1121 S. Chance Ave.
Fresno, CA
Friday-Sunday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Teri Watkins: watkins2176@sbcglobal.net

■ March 2-3 — Texas

Spring Branch African Violet Club
“Violets-A Work of Art” Show and Sale
Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center
2020 Herman Dr.
Houston, TX
Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

■ March 15-16 — Texas

First African Violet Society of Denton, Texas
“African Violets Take Over the World”
Show and Sale
First Presbyterian Church
1114 West University
Erwin Hall
Denton, TX
Friday: 1-4 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Janet Castiglione: jmcvioletcas@gmail.com
www.favsd.org

■ March 16 — Missouri

Sho-Me African Violet Club
“24 Sho-Me More” Show and Sale
Jacob L. Loose Garden Center
5200 Pennsylvania Ave.
Kansas City, MO
Saturday: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Lynn Canning: lcanning@sbcglobal.net

■ March 16-17 — Illinois

Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society
Display and Sale
Chicago Botanic Garden
1000 Lake Cook Rd.
Glencoe, IL
Saturday-Sunday: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Susan Bradford: gesneriadlady1@aol.com
www.nigesneriads.org

■ March 22-23 — Texas

Alpha African Violet Society,
First African Violet Society of Dallas,
First Nighter African Violet Society
Spring Sale
North Haven Gardens
7700 Northaven Rd.
Dallas, TX
Friday-Saturday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Club email: first.nighter.avs@gmail.com

■ March 23 — Delaware

Delaware African Violet and
Gesneriad Society
Display and Plant Sale
Boscovs Department Store
Christiana Town Center
Route 273
Christiana, DE
Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Bobbie LaFashia: rlafash@comcast.net

■ **March 23-24 — New York**

Sweet Water African Violet Society
“Violets Game Night” Annual
Judged Show and Plant Sale
West Sayville Firehouse
80 Montauk Hwy.
West Sayville, NY
Saturday: 2-5 p.m.
Sunday: noon-4 p.m.
Mary K. Chelton: MKChelton48@gmail.com
sites.google.com/view/swavs

■ **April 5-6 — Florida**

Heart of Jacksonville African Violet Society
“Violets Light the Way” Display and Sale
San Jose Church of Christ
6233 San Jose Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL
Friday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Bobbi Johannsen:
bobbi@jacksonvilleviolets.org
Joann Freeman:
joann@jacksonvilleviolets.org
www.jacksonvilleviolets.org

■ **April 5-6 — Minnesota**

African Violet Society of Minnesota
Spring Show and Sale
Northtown Mall
398 Northtown Dr.
Blaine, MN
Friday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Randy G. Deutsch: rcjsch@prodigy.net

■ **April 5-6 — Texas**

Moonlight African Violet and
Gesneriad Society
Spring Plant Sale
Fort Worth Botanic Garden-In the Grove
3220 Botanic Garden Blvd.
Fort Worth, TX
Friday: 2-6 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Bonnie Harris:
bonnieharris1578@hotmail.com

■ **April 5-7 — Virginia**

Richmond African Violet Society
“Ready, Set, Go Violets” Show and Sale
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
1800 Lakeside Ave.
Richmond, VA
Friday: 1-5 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sharon Long: slong15781@aol.com
Richmondavs.wordpress.com

■ **April 6 — California**

Capital City African Violet Society
Display and Sale
Shepard Garden and Arts Center
3330 McKinley Blvd.
Sacramento, CA
Saturday: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Kathy Norton: kathy.norton@mac.com

■ **April 6 — Connecticut**

Windsor African Violet Society
Annual Show and Sale
Grace Episcopal Church
311 Broad St.
Windsor, CT
Saturday: 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Joyce Dickey: joycedickey@yahoo.com
www.windsorafricanviolets.org

■ **April 6 — Michigan**

Michigan State African Violet Society
Sale and Display
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
1800 Dixboro Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI
Saturday: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Lynn Allen: lynnallen0413@comcast.net

■ **April 7 — Ontario**

Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society
“Smoke and Mirrors” Show and Sale
Toronto Botanical Garden
777 Lawrence Ave. E
Toronto, Ontario
Sunday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Doris Brownlie: jtbrownlie@idirect.com
Sue Smith: smith.sue2011@gmail.com
tavgs.ca

■ **April 12-13 — Tennessee**

Memphis African Violet Society
Spring Show and Sale
Central Christian Church
531 S. McLean Blvd.
Memphis, TN
Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Geneva Stagg: Geneva.stagg@gmail.com

■ **April 13 — New Jersey**

African Violet Club of Burlington County
Annual Judged Show and Sale
Burlington County Lyceum of
History and Natural Sciences
307 High St.
Mount Holly, NJ
Saturday: noon-5 p.m.
Sandra Skalski: sskalski@comcast.net

■ **April 13 — Washington**

Seattle African Violet Society and
Puget Sound Gesneriad Society
Combined Annual Show and Sale
Volunteer Park Conservatory
1400 E. Galer St.
Seattle, WA
Saturday: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Kyle Russell: kyle.russell@gmail.com
www.seattleafricanvioletsociety.com

■ **April 27 — Massachusetts**

Bay State African Violet Society
Spring Show and Sale
New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill
11 French Dr.
Boylston, MA
Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Peg Crawford: peg_crawford@msn.com

■ **April 27-28 — Virginia**

Tidewater African Violet Society
“Violets Under the Stars” Show and Sale
Norfolk Botanical Gardens
6700 Azalea Garden Rd.
Norfolk, VA
Saturday: 1-5 p.m.
Sunday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Pat Knight: kemts@cox.net

■ **May 3-4 — Ohio**

Columbus African Violet Society
“African Violets are Like Diamonds in a Pot!”
Show and Sale
Beechwold Christian Church
280 Morse Rd.
Columbus, OH
Saturday: noon-5 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Lori Hilfer: lphilfer@gmail.com
www.columbusafricanvioletsociety.org

■ **May 3-4 — Pennsylvania**

African Violet Society of Springfield PA
“Diamonds are a Violet’s Best Friend”
Show and Sale
Marple Township Municipal Building
227 S. Sproul Rd.
Broomall, PA
Friday: 1-4:30 p.m.
Saturday: 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Lisa Bradley: icollect56@aol.com

■ **May 4 — Texas**

Moonlight African Violet and
Gesneriad Society
African Violet Display and Plant Sale
Fort Worth Botanic Garden
3220 Botanic Garden Blvd.
Fort Worth, TX
Saturday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Bonnie Harris:
bonnieharris1578@hotmail.com

■ **May 4-5 — New York**

AVGSS of Syracuse, New York
“Violets Around Town” Show and Sale
Beaver Lake Nature Center
8477 E. Mud Lake Rd.
Baldwinsville, NY
Saturday: 1-6 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Penny Moore: penny.Moore.bs@gmail.com

■ **May 4-5 — New York**

African Violet and Gesneriad Society of
Western New York
“Intoxicating Violets” Show and Plant Sale
Audubon Public Library
350 John J. Audubon Pkwy.
Amherst, NY
Saturday: noon-6 p.m.
Sunday: noon-3:30 p.m.
Deborah Donaldson: avgswny@hotmail.com

■ **May 4-5 — Wisconsin**

Oshkosh Violet Society
African Violet Show and Sale
St. Jude the Apostle Church Hall
531 Knapp St.
Oshkosh, WI
Saturday: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Kevin Degner: kevindegner7@yahoo.com
Doug Kindschuh: dougsoasis@gmail.com
sites.google.com/view/oshkosh-African-
violet-society

■ **May 10 — Montana**

Billings Bloomers African Violet Club
Plant Sale
St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church
180 24th St. W
Billings, MT
Friday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (if plants left)

■ **May 11 — Ontario**

Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society
Spring Plant Sale
Toronto Botanical Garden
777 Lawrence Ave. E
Toronto, Ontario
Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Doris Brownlie: jtbrownlie@idirect.com
Sue Smith: smith.sue2011@gmail.com
tavgs.ca



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Senk’s Vespa Verde

Hybridized by: R. Follett/D. Senk
Grown by: Kevin Degner
Semiminiature



AVSA Affiliate Update

By Mary Thompson

Email: affiliate@avsa.org

It's been just under a year since I took over as Affiliate Chair and I am having a wonderful time in this new position.

Last year, I was busy sending out emails to those clubs that had not updated their AVSA website information in a couple of years. As of this date, there are still about 40 that have not updated their info. If you have disbanded your club, let me know.

In addition, I have found some emails that are no longer valid, and I have no other way to contact the club. Please check the AVSA website and update your club's information if you haven't already.

Sadly, several clubs disbanded, but I have had a couple of people contact me about

starting a club. If you are interested in our guide to starting a new club, go to the AVSA website and look at the information on the Find an Affiliate Club page (which is on the Participate page). You can also contact AVSA and someone will be glad to help you if you have any questions.

A club can contact the AVSA office and request a list of AVSA members in the area. This is a great way to contact potential club members.

If you have a great story about starting a club, please email me, as I would like to mention it at our annual Affiliate meeting at convention in April. See you there.

Violets Most Wanted List

By Mary Thompson Email: preservingviolets@avsa.org

Now is the time to contact me with a share or want since the weather will be changing shortly. There is such a short window between spring and summer for shipping. To submit your request, go to the Participate page of the AVSA website and click Most Wanted Violets.

I will be looking for these violets and more on the list, especially at convention. We are excited about the AVSA Convention in Phoenix, AZ, this year from April 21 to 28.

Barbara Jane Trail
Painted Silk
Painted Star Lou

Virtual Circle Previews Convention

By Sandi Soto

Email: ssoto4@tampabay.rr.com

The November inaugural Virtual Circle presentation featured Kathy Lahti, three-time Best in Show winner at the AVSA National Convention, presenting a primer on growing African violets for show. She included valuable details on packing plants so they can be your carry-on when flying to shows.

The second Virtual Circle was an exciting look at exactly where we want to take those African violets after we get them securely packed: Phoenix, Arizona, in April. AVSA members heard from Candace Baldwin, Convention Chair; Susan Anderson, Show Chair; Jeffery Hudson-Covolo, Tours Chair; Kathy Lahti, Convention Director; and Bill Patterson, Show Co-Chair.

There's no better time to be in Phoenix than springtime, and no better location than the Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired DoubleTree by Hilton Phoenix Tempe. If you're lucky enough to be making the trip, make your reservation by April 1 to get the AVSA discount. Another important point? The hotel provides free shuttle service to Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport but not Phoenix-Mesa Gateway airport.

The theme for the show is "Spirit of the Southwest," and the non-traditional show-room format should spotlight the entries perfectly. If you're entering any of the 14 design classes, take careful note of deadlines in the Show Schedule. Two special design events are planned — a challenge design and a miniature design not to

exceed 5 inches high by 4 inches wide by 3 inches deep.

Another major announcement was the availability of advance online or email entry. It's open to all but critical for those with 20 or more entries. Advance entries must be submitted by April 17, and AVSA suggests you list all possible entries. It's easier to delete an entry than to complete the information onsite.

Convention programs will feature top speakers with a lot to say about why violets die, LED lighting, underwater design, what fertilizer components and nutrient deficiencies do, and what makes unusual African violets unusual. There will also be wonderful tours, which include the Desert Botanical Garden (Tuesday), the Heard Museum (Wednesday) and a non-tour tour called "Cowboy Buffet and Comedy Hour" (Friday, onsite at the host hotel).

I hope I've piqued your interest enough that you'll visit the AVSA website and check out the Convention page; it's chock full of the things I haven't told you. By the time you read this, all the buttons you can click will be clickable, and you'll discover all you missed by not taking advantage of the Virtual Circle.

One last thing: If you have ideas you'd like to see presented in a future Virtual Circle, send an email to Bill Patterson (pattersonwilliam7812@gmail.com) with the Subject line "Virtual Circle Idea."

Garden State AVC: Celebrating 75 Years of Friendship Through Violets and Finding Our Roots

By Luanne Arico

Email: larico@comcast.net

I was trying to free up storage on my PC by deleting old files when I came across the source files for a website I had created in 2001 for the Garden State African Violet Club of New Jersey (GSAVC). (The website has long since been replaced by our Facebook page.) I clicked on a file titled “Background.” There, I had written that GSAVC was originally founded as the Trenton African Violet Club (TAVC) in November 1948. Below the paragraph was a copy of an old sepia-tinted photo of a TAVC African violet show. I recalled that the photo had come to me without a date or any other information. But based on the clothes the people in the photo were wearing, I had estimated it was from the late 1940s or early 1950s.



Printed in the AVSA magazine, March 1953, Vol. 6, No. 3.

It was then that I realized that if our club had been founded in November 1948, November 2023 would be its 75th anniversary! That

inspired me to try to find out more about that old photo and the origins of our club.

Trenton, the capital of New Jersey, dates back to colonial times and has a strong tradition of historical preservation. So, my first call was to the Trenton Free Public Library’s research department. I explained that I was researching the Trenton African Violet Club starting in 1948. I was immediately advised to speak to the archivist of their “Trentoniana” collection. The woman who answered took my name and email address and said she would contact me if she found anything.

The archivist didn’t sound too encouraging, so imagine my surprise to receive an email from her just 40 minutes later with the news that she had found a folder of TAVC show programs and yearbooks. I was there the next day. I took photos of every piece of paper in that folder. The yearbooks provided me with the name of the club’s founder: Mrs. Elizabeth Lawton.

My next call was to the AVSA office. Did they have any records indicating the date when TAVC changed its name to the Garden State African Violet Club? Amy Carruth, the AVSA Office Manager, was happy to assist me but explained that most of their paper files from back then had been destroyed by flooding years ago. However, did I know that almost every AVSA magazine starting with Vol. 1, No. 1 in 1947 had been assembled and digitized and was now available online through the AVSA website?

And best of all, it was keyword searchable. My heart skipped a beat.

As Amy was talking to me, she was already checking the Biodiversity Heritage Library's AVSA magazine database and discovered that the first mention of Garden State African Violet Club had been in 1991. This was great! Amy then walked me through the steps to access the database on my computer. I scrolled through the index and entered "Trenton" in the search box.

Jackpot! This was a goldmine! One of the first articles I found using the AVSA magazine data-base provided me with more hints about the club's origins. For example, I learned that Mrs. Lawton had placed a personal ad in the local newspaper requesting readers interested in African violets to write to her. Also, the club's first show was held in a department store but was not judged. And then, there it was: my sepia-tinted photo. I learned it was taken at the TAVC show in October 1952.

Aside from researching my club, I found it very interesting just reading what was going on in the African violet world back then. Around 1955, fluorescent lights were just being introduced to home growers. There

was a lot of discussion about how long to run them and how close the plants should be — not unlike the discussions on the use of LED lights that we have today.

With the hints I had collected from the AVSA magazine database, I was able to locate that first personal ad placed by Mrs. Lawton in the *Trenton Times* newspaper in September 1948. I also discovered that the club was initially called the African Violet Club of New Jersey, as it was the only AV club in the state at that time. But by 1950, because there were so many more AV clubs in New Jersey, they voted to change the name to the Trenton African Violet Club to avoid confusion. And I found the department store ad inviting the public to come see the first TAVC African violet show that was presented on the main floor. Sadly, I also found Mrs. Lawton's obituary from 1957 when she died at the age of 62.

At our November 2023 meeting, GSAVC celebrated our 75th anniversary. I presented my research on the club's origins; we had cake and toasted the spirit of Mrs. Elizabeth Lawton. At last, after 75 years, we had found our roots!



Members of the Garden State African Violet Club celebrate their 75th anniversary on November 9, 2023.



And the Winners Are ...

By Mary Corondan

Email: winners@avsa.org

■ African Violet and Gesneriad Society of Western New York, NY — Winners:

- Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Kentucky Gooseberries, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Winnergreen; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Standard: Neptune; Best Trailer: LE-Goluboi Potok; Best Species: *S. teitensis*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Paul Kroll**.
- Best Design, **Holly Pohl**.
- Design Sweepstakes, **Laura Buckner**.

■ Columbus African Violet Society, OH — Winners:

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: Woodland Sprite, Pink Energy, Buckeye Nostalgia; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Winnergreen, Rob's Inner Orbit, Jolly Maiden; Best Semiminiature: Winnergreen; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **John deSaavedra**.
- Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jolly Orchid, Gleeful Elf, Jolly Sailor; Best Miniature: Jolly Sailor, **Jeannie deSaavedra**.
- Best in Show/Best Standard: Buckeye Lazy Days, **Sherrie Zimmerman**.
- 2nd Best in Show: Buckeye Rhythm and Blues, **Cathy Willis**.
- Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo, **Renee Flowers**.
- Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea sericea*, **Lori Hilfer**.
- Best Design, **Janice Beaty**.
- Design Sweepstakes, **Elizabeth Ghias**.

■ Desert Sun African Violet and Gesneriad Society, AZ — Winners:

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Buffalo Hunt, Strawberry Kiss, **Melanie Garceau**.

- Best in Show/Best Trailer: Cajun's McKenna Trail; Best Miniature: Jolly Cupid; Best Species: *S. clone rupicolus* Robertson; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Beverly Wombold**.
- Best Gesneriad: *Primulina* 'Diane Marie', **Thelma Heinrich**.

■ Dixie African Violet Society, AL — Winners:

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: Cajun's Freckleface Kid, Picasso, Buckeye Nostalgia; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jazz Bouquet, Eternal Orbit, Rob's Inner Orbit; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Eternal Orbit; 2nd Best in Show/Best Standard: Buckeye Nostalgia; Best Miniature: Cajun's Lil Forever Blue, **Wayne Geeslin**.
- 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Hunter's Kashmir, Cajun's Hot Expectations, Buckeye Nostalgia, **Karen Buchanan**.
- Best Trailer: Always Pink; Best Gesneriad: *Primulina* 'Omen'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bobbi Johannsen**.
- Best Design, **Phillis Hinkle**.
- Design Sweepstakes, **Betty Ferguson**.

■ Glitter Gulch African Violet Growers, NV — Winners:

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: King of Diamonds, Smooch Me, Rhapsodie Ingrid; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Red, Cutie, Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Hunter's Cabbage Goddess; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Joyce Stork**.
- Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Hunter's Chickadee Chirps, Hunter's Chipmunk Cheeks, Jolly Orchid; 2nd Best in Show/Best Trailer: Brazos Belle; Best Miniature:

Jolly Orchid; Best Species: *S. 5i* clone *velutinus* lite; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Zesty Lemon', **Shawn Edwards**.
 •Best Standard: Rhapsodie Margit III, **Mark Romansky**.

■ Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society, PA — Winners:

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Nostalgia, Harbor Blue, Carolina Elegant Affair; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Hunter's Chipmunk Cheeks, Orchard's Bumble Magnet, N-Avrora; Best in Show/Best Standard: Carolina Elegant Affair; Best Species: *S. 5b* clone *grotei* Silvert, **Linda Alplanalp**.
- 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler, Buckeye Cherry Topping, Hunter's Kashmir, **Kurt Jablonski**.
- 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Queen Sabrina, Hunter's Pink Camo, Jolly Eyes; Best Trailer: RS-Zimnii Tsvetok; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Rodney Barnett**.
- Best Semiminiature: Wesley's Fairy Lights; Best Miniature: Lavender Fairy, **Marie Glass**.
- Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus humilis*, **Paul Sorano**.
- Best Design, **Bill Schmidt**.
- Design Sweepstakes, **Tammy Dubois**.

■ New York State African Violet Society, NY — Winners:

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Ingrid, Jean-Pierre Croteau, Kansas City Barbecue; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Ness' Satin Rose, Pat Champagne; Best in Show/Best Standard: Kansas City Barbecue; 2nd Best in Show: Cajun's Hot to Trot, **Doug Burdick**.
- 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Favorite, Buckeye Seductress, Jersey Snow Flakes; Best Species Collection: *S. 5c2* clone *diplotrichus* Parker, *S. 5g* clone *intermedia*, *S. 5b* clone *confusa* Mather E; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Species: *S. 5c2* clone *diplotrichus* Parker; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Joseph Palagonia**.
- Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Mac's Misty Meadow, Rob's Denim Demon, Thunder Surprise, **Donna Coleman**.

- Best Gesneriad: *Eucodonia* 'Adele', **Eileen McGrath**.
- Best Design, **Cindy Fagan**.
- Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Festenstein**.

■ Stampede City African Violet Society, AB — Winners:

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: Dress Rehearsal, Aca's Coral Beauty, Watermelon Snow; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Betty Fenerty**.
- Best in Show/Best Standard: Hunter's Kashmir; 2nd Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo, **Shane Morel**.
- Best Semiminiature: Morgan's Pu Yi, **Marie Hughes**.
- Best Miniature: Morgan's Mrs. Pittman, **Maida den Oudsten**.
- Best Species: *S. clone rupicolus* Robertson, **Norma Kunzel**.
- Best Gesneriad: *Primulina* 'Minnie Pearl', **Winston Goretsky**.
- Best Design, **Laurel Goretsky**.
- Design Sweepstakes, **Adele Wallace**.

■ Sweet Water African Violet Society, NY — Winners:

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Lucia, Buckeye Nostalgia, Cajun's Coujon, **Joseph Palagonia**.
- Best in Show/Best Standard: Jersey Snow Flakes; 2nd Best in Show: Harbor Blue; Best Miniature: Sport of Gleeeful Elf; Best Species: *S. shumensis*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Jeanette Haynal**.
- Best Semiminiature: Crackerjack Red; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Li'l Georgie'; Design Sweepstakes, **Jeanette Damaso**.
- Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Design, **Carolyn Klein**.

■ Windsor African Violet Society, CT — Winners:

- Best AVSA Standard Collection: Sweet Affair, Jersey Snow Flakes, Annabelle; Best in Show/Best Standard: Annabelle; 2nd Best in Show: Optimara myLove; Best Semiminiature: LE-Yarita; Best Species: *S. ionanthus* subsp. *grandifolius*, **Ruth Hoffman**.
- Best Miniature: Little Bo Peep; Best Trailer: RS-Zimnii Tsvetok, **Cindy Fagan**.



Registration Report

By Dr. Jeff Smith

Email: registration@avsa.org

■ Kathy Hajner — Granbury, TX

K's Whirlwind

- (11404) 11/9/2023 •(K.Hajner)
- Single violet sticktite large frilled star/lighter violet and purple fantasy, darker center.
- Medium green, quilted, serrated.
- Standard.

■ Joan Baker — Thief River Falls, MN

Rivermist Dragonseye

- (11405) 11/20/2023 •(J. Baker)
- Single white large fluted star/red-purple center.
- Variegated dark green and white, quilted, serrated.
- Standard.

■ Rivermist Flamenco

- (11406) 11/20/2023 •(J. Baker)
- Semidouble ruffled dark magenta frilled star/variable white puff fantasy
- Variegated dark green and white, quilted, ruffled, serrated/red back
- Standard.

■ Rivermist Illusion

- (11408) 11/20/2023 •(J. Baker)
- Single-semidouble white ruffled star/blue rays, netting.
- Dark green, quilted, wavy, serrated/red back.
- Standard.

■ Rivermist Jezebel

- (11409) 11/20/2023 •(J. Baker)
- Semidouble lavender frilled pansy/darker top petals.
- Variegated dark green, pink and cream, slightly ruffled.
- Standard.

■ Rivermist Mister

- (11410) 11/20/2023 •(J. Baker)
- Semidouble dark blue ruffled star.
- Variegated dark green, beige and cream, glossy, wavy, serrated/red back.
- Standard.

■ Rivermist Nightowl

- (11411) 11/20/2023 •(J. Baker)
- Single-semidouble dark blue-purple pansy.
- Variegated dark green and white, glossy, ruffled, scalloped, girl foliage.
- Standard.

■ Rivermist Sangria

- (11412) 11/20/2023 •(J. Baker)
- Single-semidouble red-burgundy wavy star.
- Variegated medium green and white, quilted.
- Standard.

■ Rivermist Shadows

- (11413) 11/20/2023 •(J. Baker)
- Semidouble dark red-violet ruffled star/variable darker rays.
- Variegated dark green, pink and white, quilted, slightly ruffled, serrated/red back.
- Large.

■ Rivermist Windchill

- (11414) 11/20/2023 •(J. Baker)
- Single dark blue large sticktite slightly frilled star/white puff fantasy.
- Variegated medium green and white, quilted/red back with variable white-spots.
- Standard.

■ **Nancy Sacco — Jacksonville, FL**

Sharon Gartner

- (11415) 12/5/2023 •(Sacco/Gartner)
- Single white sticktite frilled pansy/fuchsia thumbprints, white puff and darker fuchsia fantasy, variable fuchsia on upper petals.
- Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, wavy, serrated.
- Small standard.

■ **Hybridizer requests registration for plant previously listed in First Class**

Rivermist Floozie

- (11407) 11/20/2023 •(J. Baker)
- Single pink large sticktite frilled star/fuchsia fantasy.
- Variegated light green and white, pointed, quilted, serrated.
- Standard.

■ **Hybridizer requests listing only**

Rivermist Oohlala

- Listed 11/20/2023 •(J. Baker)
- Single light pink sticktite frilled star/variable bright pink center stripe, white puff and dark blue streak fantasy.
- Variegated dark green and white, quilted/red back with variable white-spots.
- Standard.

■ **Rivermist Zingbot**

- Listed 11/20/2023 •(J. Baker)
- Single light pink-lavender sticktite frilled star/variable blue-purple streaks and fantasy, variable thin white edge.
- Variegated dark green, pink and white, pointed, quilted, serrated.
- Standard.



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Jolly Mel

Hybridized by: H. Pittman
Grown by: Marge Farrand
Semiminiature



In Search of New Violets

By Dr. Jeff Smith

Email: jsmith4@bsu.edu

One of the trends observed over the past few years is for hybridizers to focus on increasing the size of the flowers in African violets. The wild species tend to have small flowers (1 to 2 centimeters or 1 inch) and this size was inherited by the early cultivars in the 1950s and 1960s. Some hybrids in the last decade boast flowers that are at least two to three times this size, with some specimens pushing 3 inches or 6 to 7 centimeters. In general, star-shaped flowers have a larger diameter than pansy-shaped flowers due to the change in floral symmetry. What has not increased, however, is the number of flowers. The trade-off seems to be the larger the flower, the fewer the flowers that can be produced.

The correlation between flower size and flower number is likely due to energy constraints in the plants. There is only so much available energy from photosynthesis to put into flowers. You can put the energy into a few large flowers, or you can put the same amount of energy into many smaller flowers. Think of the energy budget as similar to a shopping budget for clothes. You can afford a few expensive items or a larger number of less expensive items. Your budget is finite, so choices have to be made on how the resource is spent. Until some change in the basic energy budget occurs, African violets will balance the size and number of flowers.

It will be easier
to meet the
requirements for
seed germination
under artificial light.

Q: I like flowers with frills or ruffles. How is this trait inherited?

A: Frills and ruffles are a dominant genetic trait and will be an easy trait to breed for. As long as one parent has the trait, the offspring will have a 50% chance of inheriting the trait. If both parents have the trait, the chances increase to a 75 to 100% chance in the offspring.

Frills and ruffles are also additive traits. Plants with two doses or copies of the trait (homozygous) will show a stronger expression of the trait. These plants may also show ruffles in their foliage, as the expression is frequently linked between flowers and foliage. In these cases, you may be able to select seedlings with ruffled flowers at an early stage because they show ruffled foliage. However, ruffled foliage can be hard to manage for show plants and selecting plants with only one dose of the gene (heterozygous) may give better

potential show plants. These plants are more likely to have better shaped foliage while still showing frills or ruffles in the flower petals.

Q: Is suckering a genetically inherited trait?

A: Suckering sure seems to be a characteristic of some plants and not others, so there is likely some sort of genetic connection. You might think of suckering as being a response to stress. The plant has had a shock of some sort, either a cultural change, repotting, energy shift due to flowering, etc., and the response to shock is to survive by producing suckers. Natural selection favors strategies that improve survival of the individual, so suckering ability could be an adaptive trait. This may be especially true of miniature-sized plants that are more likely to survive if they increase their diameter and ability to overshadow neighbors through suckering. Larger-sized plants can overshadow neighbors with large leaves and suckering could be less adaptive. Growers often have trouble with miniatures suckering more than large-growing plants and this could be an explanation as to why miniatures seem more prone to this problem.

In any event, plants that sucker consistently often don't stay in collections; they are just too much trouble to maintain. These plants will be eliminated unless they have outstanding other traits to recommend them.

Q: Is the number of babies produced through leaf cuttings a genetically inherited trait?

A: Interesting question. I sometimes think the number of babies produced is indirectly proportional to the cost of the leaf. The more expensive the leaf, the fewer babies that seem to be produced.

Less expensive cultivars seem to be over-achievers in producing babies. Add in the length of time a grower has waited to get a particular leaf and I think there may be a formula of some sort here.

A more reasonable explanation is probably in the health of the leaf and the amount of surface area provided to produce new plantlets. Larger leaves are going to have more surface area in their petioles and can potentially produce more plantlets compared to smaller leaves. Some growers cut the base of the petiole at an angle to provide more surface area for plantlets to develop. Cutting at an angle can add another two to three plantlets compared to a petiole cut straight across the end. If you are reproducing a particularly valuable specimen, this strategy may be helpful to maximize the number of plantlets produced.

The vigor and health of the leaf are also important considerations. Leaves that are in excellent condition will produce more plantlets than leaves that are too old or in poor health. Sometimes the health of the leaf is obvious and other times it is not. Two leaves taken from the same area of a plant can produce a different number of plantlets. There may have been unseen differences in the chemistry of the two leaves that were responsible, but these differences may not be obvious to the naked eye.

Conversations with the late Bill Johnson indicated that his company had noticed differences in the number of plantlets some cultivars produced compared to others. When growing a mass crop of marketable plants, cultivars that reproduced well were favored over those that produced fewer plantlets per leaf. The difference in numbers could still reflect a response to the greenhouse environmental conditions, but

there could have easily been some sort of genetic trait by which some cultivars responded by producing a higher number of plantlets than others. Commercial growers likely have some data that could answer this question, but for the average hobbyist grower, selecting for the number of plantlets produced is probably not a trait that is considered.

Q: Should African violet seed be germinated under artificial lights or in natural light?

A: Obviously, wild species plants are germinating under natural light. However, the precise conditions that encourage seed germination in the wild can be difficult to duplicate. African violet seeds are extremely tiny. Small seeds need a germination medium that is fine grained so the seeds don't get buried. The medium should be moistened before adding the seed to prevent washing the seed into cracks and burying them too deep. The seed must be on the surface and not covered by the media. The container should be covered to keep the seeds constantly moist. It will be easier to meet the requirements

for germination under artificial light. A closed container in sunlight is too likely to overheat and kill the seeds.

Seed germination is sometimes improved by gentle bottom heating of the container. I often feel the shelf for the heat coming up from the light underneath and put a germination container on the warmest surface. This was easier with the old fluorescent lights rather than LED lights, but the idea is still the same. Some growers use a heat mat to provide bottom heating. These mats might be helpful if your general growing area is cool, such as in a basement.

In any event, be patient. Some African violet seeds will germinate in one to two weeks and other seeds may take four to six months before any seedlings are observed. Keep the media uniformly moist but not soggy. Do not fertilize during this stage, as algae will grow and overwhelm the seeds and/or seedlings. Check weekly for any green specks. Newly germinated seeds are very tiny but so exciting to find. Good luck with your seeds.



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AVSA is non-profit, educational organization dedicated to helping African violet enthusiasts enjoy these beautiful plants.

The Genetics of Dominant and Recessive Blossom Traits

By Graham Goode

Email: ggoode.sa@gmail.com

This is the second article of this series on the chemical compounds that create the colors of our beloved African violet. While chemistry gives us an outline of what is happening within the plants, genetics gives us a glimpse at the rules and recipes that create those chemical compounds. In this article, we'll look at the genetic concept of dominant or recessive inheritance. Then we'll take another look at the branches of the flavonoid chemical pathways that create the colors we see in our African violets, and I'll present a possible model of what's going on genetically and chemically that matches the color inheritance patterns that we see.

When we talk about dominants or recessives, we're applying the concept to a single trait. A trait is any characteristic of the African violet that we can see or measure. For this article, we'll be looking at blossom traits — like what color the flower is.

Our modern understanding of how traits are inherited comes from the principles proposed by Gregor Mendel in the 1860s. To understand his results, we need to take a step back and discuss what happens to create seeds. DNA is stored in chromosome pairs, and those pairs split in the reproductive cells — as ovule cells in the pistil on the mother plant or pollen cells in anthers of the stamen of the father plant. The process of chromosome splitting for reproduction is called meiosis. The chromosome strands combine at fertilization to form a

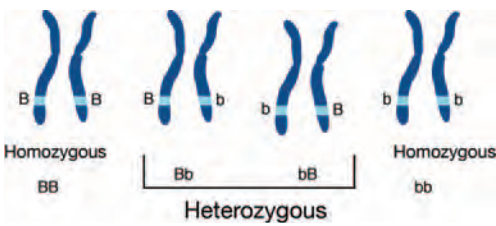
new chromosome pair in the seed. So, a seed has one set of chromosomes from each parent. You could think of the chromosome as a book of recipes, with each gene sequence being a specific recipe that the plant needs to create a chemical compound that it will use. A seed will have one copy of a gene recipe from each parent.

Mendel proposed inheritance principles by studying the common pea plant, *Pisum sativum*. He wanted to know how traits were transferred from one generation to the next. Peas were a good model because he could easily control their fertilization by transferring pollen with a small paintbrush. This pollen could come from the same flower (self-fertilization), or it could come from another plant's flowers (cross-fertilization). Mendel observed plant forms and their offspring for two years using self-fertilization and ensured that the plant's outward, measurable traits remained constant in each seedling generation.

During this time, Mendel observed seven different characteristics in the pea plants, and each of these characteristics had two forms. The traits included things like height (tall or short), pod shape (inflated or constricted), seed shape (smooth or wrinkled), pea color (green or yellow) and so on. Because the seven pea plant characteristics tracked by Mendel were consistent in generation after generation of self-fertilization, these parental lines of peas could be considered pure breeds, which in modern terminology is

homozygous for the specific trait. This means that the chromosome book of recipes from each parent had the exact same recipe for each gene location.

Over the next five years, Mendel experimented with cross-fertilization. He crossed two homozygous plants with different forms of a trait — for example, crossing a round pea plant with a wrinkled pea plant. The chromosome recipe books for the chemical compounds that control how the seeds look would be different from each plant parent. If the results of this type of mixed (heterozygous) cross looked like only one of the parents, he called that trait the dominant trait. With the round pea and wrinkled pea example, all the seedlings had round peas, so the round pea seed trait is described as dominant, and the wrinkled pea trait is described as recessive. This means that the gene recipe for round peas is stronger than the gene for wrinkled peas. When he then crossed these seedlings with each other, 75% of those seedlings had round peas and 25% had wrinkled peas. This meant that 25% were homozygous (they had two of the same gene recipe) for round peas, 50% were heterozygous (they had two different gene recipes) and the round trait was dominant, and 25% were homozygous for wrinkled peas.



Source: Wikimedia Commons.

Through his experiments, Mendel created mathematical models of inheritance that we still use today to give us an idea about what to expect from a cross. These are calculated using Punnet squares.

The next page has a list of dominant and recessive traits for African violet blossoms (these come from the information shared in the African Violet and *Saintpaulia* Hybridizers Facebook group, thanks to the work of Dr. Jeff Smith, Christopher Nagy and other hybridizers).

This list is not definitive and presents a simplified view of what the genes are actually doing. It does give us a good basis to work with, and as we follow these traits more closely in hybridization, we may discover that the dominant and recessive traits follow a more complicated inheritance pattern.

So, what causes something to be dominant or recessive? What's happening with the genes and chemical pathways?

One explanation of what causes dominance is the following scenario: Imagine that there is a mutation of a gene that causes part of the chemical recipe to fail. That failure can be seen in a change in the color of the blossom. When you cross a plant with that failed gene with a plant that has a fully functional gene, the blossom shows the original color.

Remember that a seedling receives a set of chromosomes (like a recipe book) from each parent? In this mixed, heterozygous cross, a seedling would have one functioning gene recipe and one failed gene recipe, but because there is one functioning gene, the chemical pathway is complete and the mutation does not affect the original trait. The recessive trait — the different flower color — only shows in a plant with two failed gene recipes, as this allows another chemical branch to be followed.

As an example of following dominance in what may be happening in the plants, let's use the anthocyanin chemical branches we

discussed in the first article to trace the colors (see next page). I've added a section so that you can examine it again. Using these branches of the flavonoid pathway, we're going to create a theory for why purple/blue is the dominant branch, and then use that theory to explain why red and pink are recessives. Notice again where the path splits and what those additional steps involve. Identify the reactive agents that are present or missing.

For those who want to research this further, here are the reactive agent full names:

- F3'H: Flavanone 3'-hydroxylase
- F3'5'H: Flavanone 3',5'-hydroxylase
- DFR: dihydroflavonol 4-reductase
- ANS: anthocyanidin synthase
- UFGT: UDP-glucose flavonoid 3-O-glucosyltransferase

- OMT: O-methyl transferase
- RT: flavonol-3-O-glucoside L-rhamnosyltransferase

For more information, read the article "The Flavonoid Biosynthesis Network in Plants."

African violets in the wild are pollinated by bees that buzz into the center of the flower and burst the yellow anthers, allowing them to collect the pollen. Bees do not see color the same way we humans do, so they are more attracted to certain flower colors. Blossoms on the blue/purple and yellow end of the color spectrum attract bees because those are the colors they can easily see. Species African violets evolved blue/purple petals and bright yellow anthers to attract the bees, and the chemical pathway to the blue/purple color is the most stable.

Dominant	Recessive
Blossom Color	
Blue	To all other colors
Purple	To everything except blue
Red	To pink and white (this one is a little more complicated)
Pink	To white
Yellow	To green and white. Yellow swirls can be independent of blue/purple, red and pink (codominant). The yellow throat color is a dominant trait in <i>Streptocarpus</i> species and hybrids.
Green	To white
Non-coral	To coral colors, so coral pink is recessive to pink, etc.
Fantasy	To solid colors, but reverts (irreversibly) easily
Light colors	To dark colors
Sparkle	To non-sparkle
Purple edge	To non-colored edges
Raspberry edge	To non-colored edges
Green edge	To non-colored edges
Geneva edge	To non-colored edges
Thumbprint	To solid colors
Fringed edge	To normal edges
Blossom Type	
Double	To single
Semidouble	Is heterozygous, works as incomplete dominance to single
Pansy/Violet shape	To star and dogwood
Bell	To star and dogwood
Wasp	To all, may be incomplete dominance

The Anthocyanin Branches of the Flavonoid Pathway

Purple/Blue	Red	Pink
DHK dihydrokaempferol: (C ₁₅ H ₁₂ O ₆) ↓ F3'H5'	DHK dihydrokaempferol: (C ₁₅ H ₁₂ O ₆) ↓ F3'H	DHK dihydrokaempferol: (C ₁₅ H ₁₂ O ₆)
DHM dihydromyricetin: (C ₁₅ H ₁₂ O ₈) ↓ DFR	DHQ dihydroquercetin: (C ₁₅ H ₁₂ O ₇) ↓ DFR	↓ DFR
leucodelphinidin: (C ₁₅ H ₁₂ O ₈) ↓ ANS	leucocyanidin: (C ₁₅ H ₁₄ O ₇) ↓ ANS	leucopelargonidin: (C ₁₅ H ₁₄ O ₆) ↓ ANS
delphinidin: (C ₁₅ H ₁₁ O ₇ +) ↓ UFGT	cyanidin: (C ₁₅ H ₁₁ O ₆ +) ↓ UFGT	pelargonidin: (C ₁₅ H ₁₁ O ₅ +) ↓ UFGT
delphinidin 3-O-glucoside: (C ₂₁ H ₂₁ O ₁₂ +) ↓ OMT	cyanidin 3-O-glucoside: (C ₂₁ H ₂₁ O ₁₁ +) ↓ OMT	pelargonidin 3-O-glucoside: (C ₂₁ H ₂₁ O ₁₀ +)
malvidin glucoside: (C ₂₃ H ₂₅ O ₁₂ +) ↓ RT	peonidin glucoside: (C ₂₂ H ₂₃ O ₁₁ +) ↓ RT	↓ RT
malvidin 3-rutinoside-5-glucoside: (C ₃₅ H ₄₅ O ₂₁ +)	peonidin 3-rutinoside-5-glucoside: (C ₃₄ H ₄₃ O ₂₀ +)	pelargonidin 3-rutinoside-5-glucoside: (C ₃₃ H ₄₁ O ₁₉ +)

Looking at the branches of the flavonoid chemical pathway, we can see that blue/purple uses F3'5'H as the reactive hydroxylase, where it adds two oxygen molecules to convert DHK into DHM. This makes the molecule more water soluble (more easily dissolved into water). That makes it easier to move around in the cell sap. The semi-final step in the path is the addition of the methyl (carbon and hydrogen) molecules through the OMT reactive agent, and the blue/purple branch adds two of those. This makes the chemical compound less reactive and less likely to change, which makes it more stable. So, blue/purple is the most attractive to bees and chemically the more stable compound. That stability makes it last longer and better survive the UV light in sunlight.

If the gene encoding for the F3'5'H reactive agent gets damaged, the pathway will default to using F3'H instead. This converts the DHK into DHQ. Chemical bonds tend to be geometrically similar, so as F3'H affected only one bond, the OMT will only affect one other

bond, and we'll see the peonidin red color. From this damaged gene recipe, we would get red blossoms. It is also possible that if the gene encoding for the F3'5'H reactive agent gets slightly damaged, it may create F3'H instead. This has been documented for *Osteospermum hybrida* (African daisy).

Earlier, I shared that when a plant with a damaged gene recipe that changed a trait was crossed with a plant that had the functioning gene, the functioning chemical pathway would be complete in those seedlings and the original trait would show (be dominant). That's what happens when you cross a purple-flowering African violet with a red-flowering African violet. F3'5'H can still be manufactured by the heterozygous seedlings of this cross, as they get that functioning gene recipe from the purple parent, so the majority of plants will have purple blossoms. The chromosome with the damaged gene will still produce F3'H in those seedlings, but as DHM is more water soluble than DHQ, the chemical reactions toward

DHM are stronger. F3'5'H can also convert DHQ into DHM. So, the malvidin purple color pigment wins.

What happens if the gene encoding for the F3'5'H reactive agent gets damaged and the encoding for F3'H is also damaged? Then that hydroxylase step doesn't happen and the chemical pathway turns the DHK straight into the leucopelargonidin stage, so no methyl reaction occurs either. That means we'll see the pelargonidin pink color. The two damaged areas of the genes would explain why pink is recessive to both red and purple. If you cross pink with purple, the functioning gene recipe from the purple parent will again allow the chemical pathway to purple to be complete, so the majority of the seedlings will have malvidin purple blossoms.

A mutation in the genetic recipe for the UFGT reactive agent may cause the coral colors, as this would leave out the glucoside (sugar molecule) and the pathway could continue without it. Both parents would need this mutation for the color to show as coral, so this fits nicely with the dominant and recessive chemical pathway theory.

This theory also gives a good explanation for why most white blossoms are recessive. White blossoms will have a mutation that causes one of the other reactive agents to fail, like F3'H, which would block the formation of the anthocyanins. But when they are crossed with another plant with a working anthocyanin pathway, those genes make the chemical pathway work again.

Now that we have a better understanding of what dominant and recessive inheritance means, and what that looks like in the anthocyanin chemical pathway, we can use this understanding to better plan our hybridizing efforts, and to appreciate the hybridization

work of the people who have brought us this wonderful variety of colors and shapes. Hybridizers can plan out their cross-pollination to have a higher chance of getting what they're hoping for in their seedlings.

As a final note, this article presents a simplified view of the inheritance patterns and chemical pathways. It is more complicated than this, as there can be different percentages of anthocyanins in a blossom, as well as co-pigments that affect the hue of the color. Anthocyanins are pH sensitive, so a change in the sap pH of the blossom will also cause a change in the color.

In addition to all of this, scientists studying the relationship of the *Saintpaulia* and *Streptocarpus* species used DNA sequencing to trace the divergence of the species, and they used the CHS (chalcone synthase) gene from the flavonoid pathway as a marker. There are two CHS locations (SaCHSA and SaCHSD), so there may be two genetic pathways to deal with. This simply means that we still have more to study and understand.

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Photo credit: Natalia Sorokina

SN-Fioletovoe Chudo

2023 New Introduction

Hybridized by: N. Sorokina
Standard



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

N-Podsnezhnik

Hybridized by: D. Ozherelyev/
N. Berdnikova
Grown by: Kevin Degner
Semiminiature



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Slow Dancin'

Hybridized by: S. Sorano
Grown by: Phyllis Hinkle
Semiminiature



Family Portrait: *Nautilocalyx forgetii*

By Mel Grice

Email: melsgrice@gmail.com

Nautilocalyx (naw-till-o-KAY-lix) is a gesneriad genus collected in Peru and the northern part of Brazil. The name refers to the bracts that enfold the flowers, which are thought to resemble the shape of a nautilus

shell. *Nautilocalyx* are terrestrial perennial herbs that grow in shady, wet places and on rocks in forests. These tender plants are grown for their showy foliage and small, tubular flowers borne close to the stems.



Nautilocalyx forgetii. Photo credit: Mel Grice.

Nautilocalyx forgetii is named for Mr. Forget, who collected plants for Messrs. Sander & Sons, St. Albans, England. Live plants from Peru were donated to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in 1910 by the English firm. Species names of plants that end in “ii” indicate that it was named after a person.

N. forgetii has glossy, medium green, lance-shaped leaves with red veining borne in opposite pairs on fleshy stems. Tubular, five-lobed off-white flowers appear in small clusters at the axils (where the bases of the leaves meet the stems). The ephemeral flowers do not last more than a day, which makes it a challenge to show in a class for blooming plants. Usually, this plant is shown in a class for plants grown for ornamental qualities other than bloom since the leaves are quite ornamental.

N. forgetii prefers bright, filtered light and warm, humid conditions. I grow it in my basic

AV mix that is almost half perlite, since I wick water it to provide consistent moisture. Each pot is placed under a dome near the end of a four-foot-long, two-tube T-12 fixture. *N. forgetii* can be grown single or multi-crowned.

A single stem of *N. forgetii* (think AV crown cutting) will easily root and grow in a small 2 1/2-inch pot kept covered by a dome or plastic bag to maintain high humidity. Several cuttings (four to five) placed in a larger (4- to 5-inch) azalea pot or bulb pan will result in a show plant that you will be proud of. A single leaf will root just like an African violet and produce new plants. This method of propagation takes a little longer than rooting crown cuttings.

N. forgetii is an elegant but fastidious species gesneriad that is worth adding to your collection.

African Violet Magazine

Article and Column Deadlines

- January/February issue: November 1
- March/April issue: January 1
- May/June issue: March 1
- July/August issue: May 1
- September/October issue: July 1
- November/December issue: September 1

We would love to hear from you! Please send articles or article ideas for the *AVM* to Sophia Bennett at editor@avsa.org.

The Effect of Different Water Treatments on the Rooting of African Violet Leaves

By Dr. Jeff Smith

Email: jsmith4@bsu.edu

Many hobbyists root leaves of African violets by placing the leaf into a container of water and allowing roots to develop. Some permit the new plantlets to continue in a water environment, while others transplant the rooted leaves into a growing medium.

A research question was suggested to my high school horticulture class: Does the water used in rooting African violet leaves make a difference on the rate of rooting of the leaves? The class conducted a group experiment to compare three water types. The first was local tap water; the second, distilled water; and the third was distilled water with a low amount of fertilizer.

The null hypothesis was that there would be no difference in the leaf rooting response between the different water treatments. The alternative hypothesis was that there would be a difference in rooting response. Most students hypothesized that growing roots would take nutrients; therefore, the leaves in fertilizer solution would produce roots more quickly and have a higher rate of success in root growth. The fertilizer solution would serve as the positive control for the experiment (the most likely to have root growth). The distilled water would serve as the negative control for the experiment (the least likely to have root growth) because there are no nutrients present.

The response of the African violet leaves in tap water was less clear to the students. Tap

water does contain minerals, but the elements are mostly insoluble and likely to be unusable by the leaves. Most students hypothesized that the tap water response would be intermediate to the positive and negative controls.

The tap water was from Muncie, Indiana, and is reported to have 334 ppm (parts per million) of hardness due to insoluble amounts of calcium, iron and magnesium and 19.8 ppm of sodium. The pH was slightly alkaline at 7.6 and the water is chemically treated with chloramines for bacteria safety.

The distilled water was purchased from the water supplier to the school's science labs. The distilled water had no hardness or sodium content. The pH was slightly alkaline at 7.6 and was without chloramines.

The fertilizer water was prepared using 1/2 teaspoon of MSU (Michigan State University) Orchid Fertilizer mixed with 1 gallon of distilled water. The MSU fertilizer has a formulation of 13-3-15 with 12.3% nitrate nitrogen and 0.7% ammonium nitrogen. The MSU fertilizer also contains 8% soluble calcium, 2% soluble magnesium and trace elements of boron, copper, chelated iron, manganese, molybdenum and zinc. The fertilizer water had a slight hardness of approximately 50 ppm and no sodium. The pH was slightly acidic at 6.0 and was without chloramines.

Five mature specimens of Boo Man (semi-miniature S. Sorano hybrid, AVSA #8502) were

used in the experiment. Multiple mature leaves with long petioles were cut from each plant and mixed in a container. Twelve random leaves were drawn from the container for use with each water treatment. This method ensured that leaves were randomized between multiple genetic copies of the same plant, preventing bias in leaf samples.

The rooting containers used were Pyrex 9820 test tubes, which are 1 1/2 centimeters in diameter and 15 centimeters in height. Twelve test tubes were labeled and prepared for each water treatment and placed in a test tube rack. The appropriate water treatment was added to completely fill the test tube and the petiole of the leaf cutting was inserted into the test tube. The test tube racks were placed on a plant stand 32 centimeters beneath T5 cool white 40-watt fluorescent bulbs. The lights were set for a 12-hour day/12-hour night cycle.

Additional water solutions were added to individual test tubes as needed. The leaves were carefully examined weekly for six weeks and the presence of roots recorded by individual test tube.

The results are summarized in Table 1. No roots were observed on any leaves until week 4. The fertilizer water consistently had more rooted leaves than the distilled water in weeks 4 to 6. The tap water leaves never developed any roots over the course of the experiment.

Table 1: Number of Rooted Leaves by Week

	Fertilizer Water	Distilled Water	Tap Water
Week 4	9/12 or 75%	4/12 or 33%	0/12 or 0%
Week 5	11/12 or 91%	5/12 or 42%	0/12 or 0%
Week 6	12/12 or 100%	9/12 or 75%	0/12 or 0%

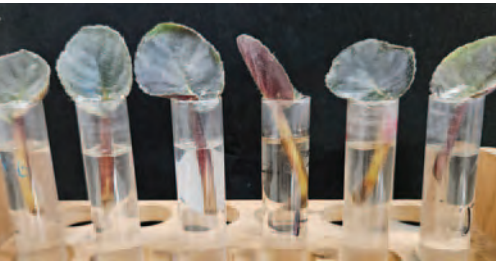
Fertilizer Water Leaves — Week 6



Distilled Water Leaves — Week 6



Tap Water Leaves — Week 6



The pictures show the leaves at week 6 when the experiment was concluded. Roots are visible on the leaves in the fertilizer and distilled water treatments. Powdery mildew had developed on most of the leaves by this point but was unlikely to have affected root growth. For clarity, only six of the twelve test tubes are shown in each picture. The leaves in the tap water treatment show hard water stains on the base of the leaf blade. Several petioles showed browning or discoloration damage.

The fertilizer water treatment leaves had a higher percentage of success compared to the distilled water treatment, with 100% of the leaves showing roots by week 6. The results support the hypothesis that nutrients

do assist in root development in Boo Man leaves. Although the experiment was not continued through the development of plantlets, it seems logical that access to nutrients from fertilizer would also benefit the growth and development of plantlets. The new cells will need elements from somewhere. If only the mother leaf is available to provide the nutrients, growth is likely to be slower.

The most surprising result of the experiment was the complete failure of the leaves in the tap water treatment to develop any roots. Close examination of the cut petioles in this treatment showed frequent browning and other tissue damage to the cut petioles. Since root growth (and new plantlets) develop from the cut surface of the petioles, damage to this area will greatly slow root development and plantlet production. The experiment does not clearly define the reason for the damage and failure to root, but the presence of chloramines in the tap water is suspected because of this

chemical's ability to inhibit bacteria growth. However, the higher hardness of the tap water may have also played a role.

In summary, the results of the experiment support that rooting African violet leaves in fertilizer water is more successful than using distilled water. Tap water was not successful in producing roots and this water source is not recommended. Rooting leaves directly in soil media may produce different results, but the application of weak fertilizer solutions may aid in rooting and plantlet development in reproducing African violets.

Thanks to the Horticulture Class at the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities for their work in conducting this experiment.

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Growing African Violets Semi-Hydroponically

"There is quite a bit of interest in growing African violets semi-hydroponically (semi-hydro for short). Many people use a medium such as LECA (expanded clay balls) with some success. Semi-hydro is a simpler method than a full hydroponic setup. It does not require active circulation of the water and fertilizer or aeration with pumps. It can actually be done similarly to wick watering.

"Hydroponics and semi-hydro are not new growing methods for African violets. A book from the 1950s, "All about African Violets: The Complete Guide to Success with America's Favorite House Plant," contained an image and caption discussing growing African violets semi-hydroponically in coarse

vermiculite. It is chemically inert and holds water well, which makes it a good candidate for a semi-hydro medium. As long as a coarse size is used, vermiculite also maintains enough air space for the roots.

"If you would like to experiment with this method, the process is fairly simple. Remove as much of your regular mix as you can from the roots of a spare African violet plant. Better yet, start with a sucker or rootless plant to easily remove all the old mix. Replace your regular mix with coarse (1/8- to 1/4-inch) vermiculite. Wick water with a dilute fertilizer solution typical for wicking or a hydroponic fertilizer with a slightly acidic pH." —*From the AVSA Growing Tips enewsletter. Written by Chris Brooks.*



Photo credit: Nadezhda Berdnikova

N-Alarika

2023 New Introduction

Hybridized by: N. Berdnikova
Miniature



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Rob's Lucky Stroke

Hybridized by: R. Robinson
Grown by: Kathy Lahti
Semiminiature

Preview of the 2024 AVSA Convention

By Sophia Bennett

Email: editor@avsa.org

Seize the “Spirit of the Southwest” at this year’s AVSA National Convention, taking place in Phoenix, Arizona, from April 21 to 28. While registration opens on Sunday, convention activities don’t begin in earnest until Wednesday. There are plenty of can’t-miss opportunities crammed into the main convention days; read on to learn why you won’t want to skip this year’s global gathering of African violet lovers.

Tours and Treats on

Tuesday and Wednesday

If the Desert Botanical Garden is on your list of places to visit in Phoenix, arrive at the convention on Tuesday for a tour organized by AVSA.

Wednesday kicks off with the AVSA Judging School, which will begin at 8:15 a.m. The Judging School is open to everyone, not just those who are interested in becoming a judge. The day-long class is a great way to learn more about growing and showing violets.

Those exhibiting in the show should arrive early with their plants and designs for classification and entry. As a reminder, you can now register your plants online or by email to save yourself time in the morning. Afterward, join AVSA for lunch and a chance to meet the Board of Directors. There will also be a tour of the Heard Museum, which features a world-class collection of American Indian art, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

Anyone new to convention should consider attending the First-Time Convention Attendees Meeting at 3:30 p.m. Members will provide tips for making the most of the event, plus you can meet other newbies. Details about this meeting’s location will be in your registration materials.

Perhaps the biggest treat on Wednesday is the welcome reception. Volunteers will present a slideshow with new African violet introductions from the past year. Hors d’oeuvres will be served and a cash bar will be available.

Thursday Highlights: Sales and Show

The registration and sales tables will open early on Thursday. At 10:30 a.m., Joyce Stork will present the first educational seminar, entitled “Why Did My Violet Die?”

The sales room will open at 1 p.m. to registered conventioners only, and it’s worth lining up early. Plants and supplies from AVSA Commercial members always sell quickly.

In the evening, join AVSA for a hospitality hour with a cash bar at 6 p.m., followed by the show awards banquet at 7 p.m. The show-room will open to convention registrants immediately following the banquet.

Friday is for Learning and Shopping

There are two educational seminars on Friday. Bruce Williams will tackle the tricky topic of LED lighting in the morning. In the afternoon, Linda Hall will dive into “Underwater Design 101.”

The Affiliates' Breakfast, where you can meet other club leaders and get ideas to take back to your group, kicks off at 7:45 a.m. Both the showroom and sales room are open to everyone beginning at 9 a.m.

Anyone can be a winner at the Luncheon Auction, which will take place at noon on Friday. The auction supports AVSA's operations and there will be a number of great items to bid on.

After a happy hour at 5 p.m., join AVSA for a ticketed "Cowboy Buffet and Comedy Hour." A delicious and hearty meal will be followed by an hour of laugh-out-loud entertainment. The dinner will take place at the convention hotel.

Super Saturday Happenings

The Judges Breakfast is scheduled for first thing Saturday morning. Please note that it is a ticketed event.

After finishing any last-minute shopping in the sales room and plant viewing in the showroom, drop into one of Saturday's

seminars. Dr. Jeff Smith will present his new research on nutrients in fertilizer. Dr. Rachel Martin is planning a session on "Unusual African Violets and What Makes Them Different."

In the afternoon, be sure to attend the AVSA Annual Membership Meeting and Open Forum. This is your chance to vote on this year's Board of Directors nominees and amendments to the bylaws, hear more about what is happening with AVSA and voice your questions and suggestions to AVSA's leadership.

The newly elected board members will be installed during a dinnertime ceremony that begins at 6 p.m. (A hospitality hour with a cash bar will once again begin at 5 p.m.) After that, it's time to pack up your plants and get ready to head home.

Please continue to check the AVSA website for convention updates. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Luncheon Auction Update

By Candace Baldwin Email: auction@avsa.org

One of my favorite convention activities is the Luncheon Auction. This year, it will be even better. The post-convention survey gave AVSA's leadership insight on how to improve the Luncheon Auction experience. Here are a few changes we're working on:

- Requesting more plant material for donations
- Fewer items so there's more time to enjoy the camaraderie during lunch
- A silent action will be set up for some donations

Every year, we have a wide variety of items that are donated by our generous members. This year, please consider a donation of plant material, such as a set of starter plants of your personal favorites, vintage violets or plants with unusual foliage or blossoms.

There would be no auction without you and your donations. Thank you. AVSA and I are very grateful.

SAVE THE DATE!

2024 AVSA CONVENTION



April 21-28, 2024

**DoubleTree by Hilton
Hotel Phoenix Tempe**

2100 S Priest Dr, Tempe, AZ 85282

Show and salesroom open to the public:

Friday, April 26, 9AM - 5PM

Saturday, April 27, 9AM - 3PM

\$5 admission fee

Hosted by:



Preparing for Convention: Hotel and Weather

By Candace Baldwin

Email: conventionchair@avsa.org

How's the weather in April in Phoenix? Beautiful, just beautiful, and here's why. Average highs are mid 80s and lows are low 60s. It's T-shirt weather all day for some and a light sweater at night for others. It's the perfect weather to enjoy a beverage and beautiful desert sunset with lots of reds and yellows against a cloudless sky of blue.

The DoubleTree style of hotel is uniquely southwestern, with Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired architecture. Only three stories high with elevators at each end, the rooms are accessed from the outside and arranged in an oval around the property. The intent is to be outside in the sunshine as you move from your room to the restaurant to the convention center.

The hotel has several places to sit outside and bask in the warm sunshine or evening glow beneath swaying palm trees in the evening breeze. Or perhaps you'd prefer a dip in the large, heated pool in between those shopping trips to the sales room and dinner.

The DoubleTree has free parking and a free airport shuttle. If you're flying, call the hotel once you are ready and they'll provide timing and directions to the pick-up location.

Sunshine abounds in the Southwest, so be sure to pack sunscreen and sunglasses and drink plenty of water while you're delighting in the unique food and landscape that make Phoenix your vacation destination this year.

Convention First-Timers Meeting

By Candace Baldwin

Email: conventionchair@avsa.org

Congratulations! It's your first convention! I know you'll have a good time and meet new friends.

First things first. Before you leave home, review the convention schedule (available on the website) and see when registration is

open. It's not open all day, so know the times available. Once at the hotel, signs will tell you where you can find AVSA registration. At registration, you will receive a goodie bag that contains information about what you registered for, the souvenir convention booklet (your convention bible, which contains information about where and when activities take place) and other assorted fun items.

Next, create a plan of what you want to see and where you need to be and when. If you can, attend the First-Time Convention Attendees Meeting on Wednesday afternoon, where I cover different aspects of the convention. I'll review the souvenir convention booklet, give insider tips and provide lots

of time to meet other first timers and ask questions.

I highly encourage you to enter the show (even just one plant), as it is an amazing experience. I know many people want to go and see what convention is like before being an exhibitor. I felt the same way and was more than a little intimidated at the thought of entering at my first convention. I did it anyway and am so glad I did. Having a goal to have at least one entry gave me a reason to spend more time with my plants.

Feel free to contact me by email with any questions. See you in Phoenix.



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African Violet Society of America Inc.**





Photo credit: Irina Kabanova and Elena Trofimenko

KT-Aqua

2023 New Introduction

Hybridized by: I. Kabanova/
E. Trofimenko
Standard



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Morgan's Sweet Patootie

Hybridized by: C. Eros
Grown by: Bobbi Johannsen
Miniature

AVSA Hat Contest Now Open for Voting

By Chris Brooks

Email: marketing@avsa.org

AVSA's Hat Contest received 11 wonderful entries (plus ones made by myself and my wife, which will not be included in the voting but are shown here). After viewing the entries and artist statements below, please vote for your favorite on the AVSA website between March 1 and 31. The winner will be announced at the AVSA National Convention in Phoenix and in the May/June 2024 *AVM*.



Katherine Beckwith

"This hat advertises that the love of African violets is alive and well in Tucson, Arizona. It combines traditional symbols of the American Southwest — cowboy hat, turquoise and copper — with a locally trending art technique called hat burning to create the stylized design of African violets and the words Saint Paulia."



Catherine Brooks

(not eligible for voting)

Title: An African Violet
Mardi Gras Mombo



Chris Brooks

(not eligible for voting)

Title: African Violets Gone
Country



Karen Buchanen

"African violets are 'show' much fun to grow! This hat represents the joy I have experienced through the African violet hobby. Attending an African violet show (local, regional or national) is a wonderful way to meet new people and learn more about African violets."



Jennifer Ebbinghouse

"The hat represents fabulous fashion fun in the sun with African violets."



Jamie Hart

"This hat represents the love and happiness I have for the indoor garden and blooms that I am blessed with!"



Holly Howes

"I am a lover of all things African violet! I wanted my hat to feature a bold pink-violet flower with purple fantasy and also include the iconic velvety green leaves. I felt adding some fantasy flecks to the flowers just made it a little more fun and festive. It was certainly a fun project and I am proud to show off and share my love of African violets."



Susanne Sacco

"The hat reminds members that AVSA keep us current on new varieties of plants, growing methods, shows, winners and more. Keeping the Southwest spirit in mind."



Charlee Stonecipher

"Making this hat was fun! As I painted it, I thought of the members of my club — Alpha African Violet Society of Dallas. They have become like family to me. From the first meeting I attended, they openly embraced me and have been wonderfully kind and welcoming. They have opened their generous hearts to me, all while sharing their seemingly infinite knowledge and wisdom of beautiful African violets. I have learned so much already and thanks to them, I now have many beautiful, thriving plants."



Susan Kordzikowski

"Of the many hats I wear, this is my favorite because it gives me pleasure and allows me to care for my violets on the go."



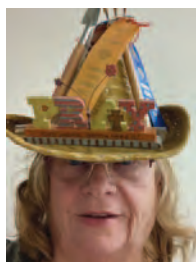
Lou LeMaire

Theme: Beach ready with violets



Tina Marks

Theme: Winter blooms



April Van Ness

"Use all the right tools, follow all the right suggestions and sometimes it still doesn't work! That's why I say just pray — you're going to need it!"



Photo credit: Galina Lazarenko

LiK-Vysokii Stil

2023 New Introduction

Hybridized by: G. Lazarenko
Standard



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Hunter's Cabbage Goddess

Hybridized by: K. Muzalewski
Grown by: Jackie Leitzel
Semiminiature



AV Creative Corner: Clock from a CD

By Rich Follett

Email: avcreativecorner@gmail.com

In this edition, we feature a creative project submitted by Sharon Rosenzweig. She writes: “Here is an easy creative project you can make for yourself or give as a gift. It is a clock made with a blank CD.

“You need a clock mechanism with hands, stick-on numbers, a CD, a picture of your favorite AV (this one is Hector) and a stand. All supplies can be found in a craft store (such as Michaels or Hobby Lobby).



Photo credit: Sharon Rosenzweig.

“Find a picture, print it, trace it to fit the CD and paste it on. (Columnist’s note: If you have an AVSA calendar from years gone by, one of the pictures in there would work well, too.) Follow the directions that come with the clock mechanism and install the hands. Stick on the numbers. Insert an AA battery and set the time. Place the assembled clock on a stand. And voila!”

Thank you, Sharon!

Send us a picture of your completed clock (300 DPI or greater) to avcreativecorner@gmail.com by April 1 and, space permitting, we will share it in a future issue of *AVM*. Have fun!

In Memory

Pat Hancock

Pat Hancock from Middletown, Ohio, passed away on January 1 after a brief illness.



Pat started growing African violets in 1946. She acquired her love of all types of flowers from her grandmother. Like so many of us, she was taught to put down leaves of very simple old hybrids and produce new plants to grow in her windows. In the early 1950s, she set up some fluorescent lights in her basement to grow more African violets.

Pat got interested in hybridizing African violets in 1992 when she was given a seed pod from David Heath, who lived in the neighboring state of Indiana. He taught her how to cross one African violet with another.

All of Pat's standard-size African violets have variegated foliage that grows large. Symmetry was her first love. The number of blooms per stem was more important than color to Pat. She selected plants having more than

five blossoms per stem. I think you will agree that Pat has achieved her goal of producing symmetrical growing plants with foliage that lays flat and has many beautiful blooms on strong stems.

The alpha name Buckeye was chosen by Pat because she lived in the state of Ohio, which is nicknamed the "Buckeye State" and people who live in Ohio are called buckeyes. The state tree in Ohio is the buckeye tree, which has a nutlike seed with a pale patch on a shiny red-brown surface that makes it look like the eye of a deer. So, all of Pat's large standard variegated hybrids are named with the alpha name Buckeye.

Pat did hybridize a few solid green leaf plants that she named for Kentucky Derby-winning horses. She used the alpha name Bluegrass for them. Pat tried hybridizing some miniature African violets that she gave the alpha name Jitterbug. The Jitterbug was a kind of dance made popular in the United States in the early 20th century. Pat and her husband, Tom, used to enjoy this kind of dancing.

Pat loved to share what she learned about growing African violets with her local club members and through the numerous articles she wrote for AVSA over the years. It was Pat's idea to sponsor contests encouraging other people to submit more articles to the *AVM*. She received the Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership from AVSA in 2015. AVSA awarded Pat the Bronze Medal in 2005 for creating plants with good foliage and

lots of blooms per stalk that will win shows — such as Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler, Buckeye Nostalgia and Buckeye Seductress. The “And the Winners Are ...” column in the *AVM* is always filled with the names of show-winning plants created by Pat. Thank you, Pat, for all of your contributions to the African violet world. You will be greatly missed. —*Mel Grice*

Ann Stoetzer

Ann Stoetzer, age 84, passed away on October 7 in Sun City West, Arizona. Ann was a founding member of the Desert Sun African Violet & Gesneriad Society when it organized in 1980. She served several terms as President and over a decade as the Treasurer. She gladly shared her love for and knowledge of the care of African violets. The members loved her and will miss her for a long time.



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler

Hybridized by: P. Hancock
Large

Fund Reports for September/October 2023

By Randy G. Deutsch and Janet Riemer

Email: fundraising@avsa.org

■ Anne & Frank Tinari

Endowment Fund: \$265

The Anne & Frank Tinari Endowment Fund supports the long-term stability of the Society.

■ \$100 to \$200

Ohio State AVS

*(In memory of Emma Bygott and
Jan Schroeder)*

■ \$50 to \$99

Hoosier AVS, IN

(In memory of Jean Willey)

Christopher Brooks, Opelousas, LA

■ \$25 to \$49

Quad Cities AVS, IA

■ Under \$25

Carol Wilson, North Little Rock, AR

Rita Kuni, Columbia, IL

Barbara Burde Endowment Fund: \$640

The Barbara Burde Endowment Fund supports the society's long-term needs in technology.

■ \$500 to \$599

Lynn Allen, Bloomfield Hills, MI

■ \$100 to \$199

Kathy Bell, Tucson, AZ

■ Under \$25

Carol Wilson, North Little Rock, AR

Joan Wood, Torrance, CA

Booster Donations: \$3,485

Booster Donations support AVSA's ongoing general expenses.

■ \$1,000 to \$1099

Kathy Bell, Tucson, AZ

Mary Corondan, McKinney, TX

■ \$300 to \$399

Mary Corondan, McKinney, TX

■ \$100 to \$199

Susan Anderson, Phoenix, AZ

Marge Farrand, Ann Arbor, MI

Joseph Meyer, Bakersfield, CA

Gail Podany, Minnetonka, MN

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Ann Athey, Denton, TX

Candace Baldwin, Mesa, AZ

Amy Blanton, Ashland, OH

Donna Christianson, Fargo, ND

Richard Craft, Las Vegas, NV

Meredith Hall, Clearwater, FL

(In memory of Jane Rexilius)

Carolyn Lantz, Timberville, VA

Lone Star AV Council, TX

(In memory of Eunice Curry and Berta Deleon)

Sue Ramser, Wichita Falls, TX

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■ Under \$25

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Candace Baldwin, Mesa, AZ

Mary Bryant, Saint Petersburg, FL

Nathan Cave, Lockport, NY

Mary Corondan, McKinney, TX

Glenda's House of Violets, Dade, TX

Julie Hamilton, Loomis, CA

Sue Li, Plano, TX

Carolyn Lyons, Oshkosh, WI

Vicky Richard, Lake Alfred, FL

Roy Roberts, Broken Arrow, OK
Linda Schuessler, Loudon, TN
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Dolores Waddell, Irmo, SC
Teri Watkins, Sanger, CA

Carol Wilson, North Little Rock, AR
Beverly Wombold, Payson, AZ

Boyce Edens Research Fund: \$10
The Boyce Edens Research Fund supports research and scholarships.

■ **Under \$25**
Erika Geimonen, Wilmington, DE

“Perfectly Pittman” Video

This video chronicles the multiple hybrids, growing techniques, growing spaces and AVSA involvement of Hortense and Ray Pittman.



Jolly Orchid

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Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

N-Vera

Hybridized by: N. Berdnikova
Grown by: Marge Farrand
Semiminiature



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Hunter's Those Eyes

Hybridized by: K. Muzalewski
Grown by: Linda Hall
Miniature

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- ☐ Affiliate Chapter, all levels, USA (\$40)
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Photo credit: Marina Totieva

MT-Impul's Vselennoi

2023 New Introduction

Hybridized by: M. Totieva
Standard

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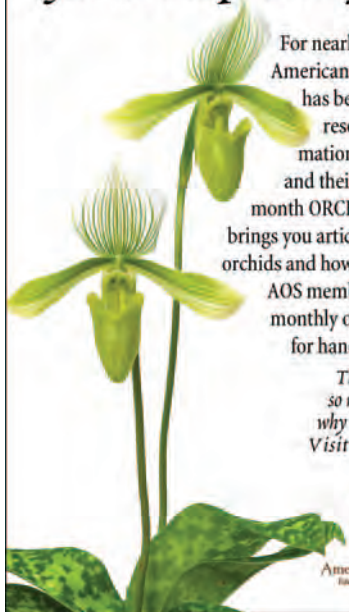


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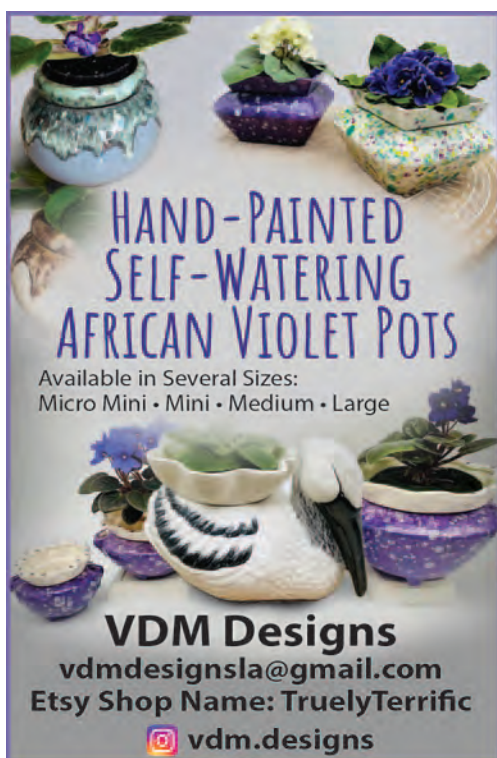
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